

## **Cancer Support Community Fact Sheet**

### Cancer Support Community

In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club Worldwide joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community (CSC), the largest nonprofit employer of oncology mental health professionals in the United States. Harnessing 50 years of collective experience, CSC provides the highest quality psychosocial services to patients and their families and the CSC network touches over 1 million survivors and caregivers annually. The mission of CSC is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community.

### CSC Direct Services and Programs

CSC has 55 free-standing facilities, over 100 satellite locations and 2 hospital partner members in its affiliate network, a professionally-led online support community and a telephone Helpline staffed full time by licensed clinical professionals. CSC's network delivers over **\$40 million** in **free** services each year to people with cancer and their families.

CSC and its Affiliates offer a wide range of daily wellness and support activities in addition to a number of evidence-based services and educational programs which include:

- **Cancer Support Helpline:** toll-free phone line staffed by licensed mental health professionals that provides patients and families practical help, counseling and referral to other resources.
- **Open to Options:** treatment decision counseling program to aid patients in their conversations with their health care team.
- **Frankly Speaking About Cancer:** patient education platform that offers print and online materials, educational workshops and a weekly radio show free of charge.

### Research and Training Institute

CSC's *Research and Training Institute* is the first independent Institute in the United States dedicated to psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research and training in cancer. The Institute ensures that research is translated into patient-centered, evidence-based practice and that all CSC research is made publicly available. All of CSC's education programs and services are backed by research occurring at the Institute.

Examples of the Institute's defining work:

- **Cancer Experience Registry:** the only registry of its kind to map the full experience of the cancer journey over time; the registry is open to anyone with any cancer and data is used build the evidence base around psychosocial care and inform new programs and services; currently, there are 4,300 people in the registry.
- **CancerSupportSource:** a validated screening program to uncover emotional distress caused by the cancer diagnosis and services for support when distress is identified; all CSC affiliates will be screening for distress in 2014 and all American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer accredited cancer centers must screen for distress starting in 2015.

Given the combination of direct patient services and research, CSC is well positioned to be a partner in ensuring high-quality, patient-centered, comprehensive cancer care in today's challenging environment.